Stephen Reeves 9/27

Writing 105 Essay

Images can have many meanings and can spark many debates. This is an image of accomplished Para Olympian, Oscar Pistorius, putting on his carbon fiber prosthetics used for running. Pistorius was born with a congenital absence of the fibula in both legs. This caused the need for both of Pistorius’s legs to be amputated when he was 11 months old. Pistorius began running in 2004, and later that year competed in 2004 Summer Paralympic games in Athens, Greece. In the years following Pistorius and his carbon fiber prosthetics, set new world records for people with disabilities at the Paralympics. In 2007 Oscar decided to try to compete in the abled-bodied Olympic Games. The problems impeding Pistorius from competing are the qualifiers and the International Association of Athletics Federations (track and field’s governing body). The I.A.A.F. has been investigating if Pistorius’s artificial legs give him an advantage over other able-bodied runners. In most peoples’ mind this is a ridiculous accusation, but scientists have proven that the carbon fiber legs make Pistorius 15-20 percent faster than how would normally be. That extra speed allows Pistorius to run ten seconds faster in a 400-meter race, Oscar’s main race1. The I.A.A.F. did let Pistorius try to qualify, but he missed the Olympic team by.7 seconds. The image below is an image of controversy in the sports world. It also has a large social impact in the disability community.

1. http://current.com/1ojvq4c